

25X1A

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 27 February 1951

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.

25X1X 1. [REDACTED] the recent visit of Archimandrite Basilios Samahah to Syria and Lebanon was made at the suggestion of the Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow. The purpose of the trip was to obtain the financial support of Greek Orthodox Patriarch Alexandros Tahan of Antioch for the creation of a seminary in Moscow for Greek Orthodox priests.**

2. When Archimandrite Samahah's initial efforts to gain the Patriarch's support were unsuccessful, he appealed to the Soviet Legation in Beirut to bring pressure to bear on Patriarch Tahan. After referring the matter to Moscow, the Soviet Legation told Archimandrite Samahah that the Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow was prepared to provide him with 300,000 rubles against a promissory note signed by the Patriarch Alexandros Tahan.

3. This project was successfully arranged, and Archimandrite Samahah left Damascus on 6 January to return to Moscow, via Iran.

25X1A * [REDACTED] Comment. Other reasons for Archimandrite Samahah's visit are given in [REDACTED]

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Document No. 6
No Change in Class. ☐
☐ Reclassified
Class. Changed To: 1
Auth.: HR 70-2
Date: 202228 275

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